

BREAKING NEWS: Rep. Slaughter Applauds Passage of the CHAMP Act

On August 1, the House of Representatives passed the landmark Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (CHAMP Act) effectively ensuring access to healthcare for millions of low income children and seniors.

To read Rep. Slaughter's comments about the CHAMP Act [click here](#).

To watch Rep. Slaughter's speak in support of the CHAMP Act [click here](#).

FACTS ABOUT:

The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007
(the CHAMP Act)

The CHAMP Act will ensure access to health care for millions of low income children and seniors.

State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)

- This bill will reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for 6 million children and provide 5 million more low income children with health coverage.

- The previous authorization of SCHIP is set to expire on Sept. 30. If SCHIP expires, 6 million children would lose their health coverage and millions of children will not receive the preventative care needed to avoid future costly health care treatment.

- The CHAMP Act will maintain current SCHIP eligibility laws at the same time giving states the tools to reach the millions of uninsured children who are eligible, but not enrolled in the program.

Protections and Improvements for Seniors

- Ensures seniors continue to have access to the doctors of their choice by stopping a 10% Medicare payment cut to doctors and instead providing a 2-year increase in reimbursement rates.

- Encourages seniors to seek preventive health benefits by eliminating co-payments and deductibles. Reduces copays for mental health services.

- Protects low-income seniors by expanding and improving programs to ensure Medicare remains affordable for those with lower incomes.

- Ensures seniors in rural areas continue to have access to Medicare and the doctors they trust.

Funding the CHAMP Act

The bill calls for \$50 billion in funding for SCHIP. To pay for this program, the bill increases the excise tax on tobacco by \$0.45 and equalizes payments between the Medicare Advantage program and traditional Medicare.

- According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, a 45 cent increase in the tobacco tax means 1,381,000 fewer children will take up smoking. Additionally, adults will be less likely to smoke meaning that there will be a decline in smoking related illnesses among the general population.

- In April, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities found that Private "Medicare Advantage" health plans are paid 12 percent more than the cost of treating comparable beneficiaries through traditional Medicare, adding billions to Medicare's costs.

- Medicaid, not Medicare Advantage, however, is the main form of supplemental coverage for low-income Medicare beneficiaries. Curbing overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans would benefit Medicare beneficiaries by reducing costs and premiums and improving Medicare's long-term fiscal sustainability

Organizations Supporting the CHAMP Act

American Osteopathic Association (AOA)

American Psychological Association

American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO)

American Speech-Language Hearing Association

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

California Medical Association (CMA)

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Catholic Health Association

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Dental Health Project

Children's Defense Fund

Clinical Social Work Association

Coalition for Health Services Research

Coalition of Full Service Community Hospitals

Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation

College of American Pathologists

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)

Consumers Union

Disability Policy Collaboration

Easter Seals

Families USA

Federation of American Hospitals (FAH)

First Focus

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Friends of National Quality Forum (Includes 18 Organizations)

Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA)

Genzyme Corporation

HIV Medicaid / Medicare Working Group (Includes 18 Organizations)

HIV Medicine Association

Infectious Diseases Society of America (ISDA)

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International

Lutheran Services in America

March of Dimes

Medicare Cost Contractors Alliance

Medicare Rights Center

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

National Association of Insurance Commissioners

National Association of Social Workers

National Association of Urban Hospitals

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

National Council for Community Behavioral Health Care

National Council on Aging (NCOA)

National Education Association

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Medical Association

National Partnership for Women and Families

National Rural Health Association

Premier

Society of General Internal Medicine

Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Title II Community AIDS National Network

Washington State Labor Council